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1

SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to  
3 learn of the death of Darrell Wayne Beck of Decatur; and

4

WHEREAS, Darrell Beck was born in Carson Township in  
5 Fayette County, on February 27, 1933; his parents were Emma and  
6 Noble Beck; he married the love of his life, Ursula, on  
7 November 14, 1953; and

8

WHEREAS, Darrell Beck began a life-long love affair with  
9 dancing at a very young age; he studied acrobatic dancing,  
10 ballet, and tap; he eventually developed a dedication to  
11 ballroom dancing and ultimately, he and Ursula became dance  
12 instructors at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio; and

13

WHEREAS, Darrell Beck served his country with pride and  
14 distinction for four years in the United States Navy; following  
15 his stint in the Navy, he moved back to Decatur and began  
16 working for McKeever Communications; he eventually became  
17 President and CEO at McKeever and began an explosive expansion  
18 into wide-area network paging, towers, and cellular phones;  
19 after retiring from McKeever in 1993, he began to invest his  
20 time and talents and treasures in other philanthropic  
21 opportunities; and

1           WHEREAS, Darrell Beck converted from Lutheranism to  
2 Catholicism and subsequently began his devotion to community  
3 service; as an active member of St. James Catholic Church, he  
4 became involved in the Holy Name Society, Home and School, and  
5 the Lay Advisory Board; he was an active volunteer at St.  
6 Teresa High School, where he served as President of the  
7 Foundation and was the "Voice of the Bulldogs", announcing home  
8 football games for 43 years; he and his wife directed and  
9 choreographed five musicals and co-chaired two major  
10 fundraisers at the school; he also contributed the largest  
11 single cash donation by an individual to the school; and

12           WHEREAS, Darrell Beck held leadership positions in the  
13 Knights of Columbus on the local, state, and national levels;  
14 he served as State Deputy for Illinois and was a Supreme Master  
15 for the 4th Degree; he served on the international Board of  
16 Directors in New Haven, Connecticut; he also called bingo at  
17 Council #577 and helped develop the Tootsie Roll Drive that  
18 supports the Special Olympics; he subsequently became  
19 President of the Board of Directors for Illinois Special  
20 Olympics and helped raise over \$1 million for the organization;  
21 and

22           WHEREAS, Darrell Beck and his wife participated in and led  
23 many community service organizations, including Easter Seals,  
24 the YWCA, the YMCA, Millikin University, Richland Community

1 College, St. Mary's, the Newman Catholic Center, Decatur Pride,  
2 the Decatur Park Singers, the American Heart Association, the  
3 American Cancer Society, Kiwanis, Sertoma, ROMEO, and  
4 Summerstart, St. James, and St. Teresa Schools; he also served  
5 on the Board of Directors of CIB Bank, Water Island, and  
6 Lincoln Theatre; he was privileged to have nine audiences with  
7 Pope John Paul II and to have worked in Mother Teresa's soup  
8 kitchen; and

9 WHEREAS, Darrell Beck received numerous awards for his work  
10 in the community, including the Easter Seals Seal of Excellence  
11 Award, the Sertoma Man of the Year award, the Kiwanis Man of  
12 the Year award, the Chamber of Commerce Civic Award, and State  
13 of Illinois Knights of Columbus Family of the Year award; in  
14 2001, he was the Medallion Society recipient for the 100th  
15 Anniversary Outstanding Alumni at Millikin University; he is  
16 also the Knight Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order of the Holy  
17 Sepulchre of Jerusalem; and

18 WHEREAS, Darrell Beck was preceded in death by the love of  
19 his life, Ursula, and his sisters, Norma Hebel and Karyn Sue  
20 Beck; and

21 WHEREAS, Darrell Beck is survived by his sons, Mark  
22 (Dominique), Matt (Natalie), Dan (Tunde), and Sam (Jennifer);  
23 his daughters, Angela (Mary), Amy Bliefnick (Ray), and Maggy

1 Pugh (Brad); his grandchildren, Ted (Rachael), Tim (Becky),  
2 Tommy, Christine Chandler (Nate), Stephanie Kreke (Ryan),  
3 Emily (Brit Miller), August, Sutton, Estelle, Lillian, Lauryn,  
4 and Gracey; his great-grandchildren, Deacon Bliefnick and Macy  
5 Miller; his sister, Donna Noel; his brother, Ed; and his many  
6 nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
9 his family and friends, the death of Darrell Wayne Beck; and be  
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the family of Darrell Beck as a symbol of our  
13 sympathy.